Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 /064 W ------ 127349

P R 080903Z AUG 75 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7882 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER PERES ON SYRIA AND JORDAN

1. ON AUG 7 DEF MIN SHIMON PERES ADDRESSED ISRAEL-AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON, WHICH WAS GIVNE IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR TOON. TWO OF PERES' COMMENTS, DURING SUBSE-QUNET QUESTION PERIOD, ARE OF CURRENT RELEVANCE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA PERES SAID THAT IF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A SECOND STGE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT ARE SUCCESSFUL, HE WOULD FAVOR TALKS WITH SYRIAN ON EITHER AN INTERIM OR OVRALL SETTLEMENT. HE NOTED THAT WHILE GOLAN TOPOGRAPHY IS NOT AS GENEROUS AS IN SINAI, AND HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING THT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN BE GIVEN UP, GOI SHOULD NEVERTHELESS EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES TOWARD AGREEMENT WITH SYRIANS. NO MOVEMENT AT ALL ON SYRIAN FRONT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IN LONGER TERM.

2. IN RESPONSE QUESTION ABOUT RECENT CHANGE IN JORDANIAN ATTITUDE TOWRAD ISRAEL, PERES SAID THAT JORDANIAN LEADERS SEEM TO BE ENGAGING IN A WAR OF WORDS. OF PARTILIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULAR CONCERN WERE APPARENT MOVES TWARD UNION WITH SYRIA. PRIME MINISTER RAFAI, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD RECENTLY PROPOSED THAT ARAB WORLD BE REFORMED INTO FOUR MAJOR NATIONS: GREATER SYRIA, ARABIAN PENINSULA, REPUBLIC OF THE NILE

AND NORTH AFRICA. PERES SUGGESTED THAT JORDANIAN MOTIVATION MIGHT BE DESIRE TO OBTAIN SYRIAN AGREEMENT FOR REINSTATE-ME OF JORDANIAN AUTHORITY OVER WEST BANK ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED EITHER SYRIANS OR PLO WOULD AGREE. PERES CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT KING HUSSEIN WOULD NOT CONTINUE ON PRESENT COURSE WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO "RENEWED BELLICOSITY" ALONG JORDAN FRONT. IT WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE FOR HUSSEIN TO TIE JORDAN'S FATE TO SYRIA AND TO ANY MILITARY BUILDUP AGAINST ISRAEL.

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Message Attributes

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